631 Art. 20. The Abkhazian Autonomous SSR consists of the districts of: Gagry, Gali, Gudauty, Gulripshi, Ochamchiri, Sukhumi; and the cities of Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli which do not form part of districts.

Art. 21. The Adjar Autonomous SSR consists of the districts of Batumi, Keda, Kobuleti, Khulo; and the city of Batumi which does not form part of a district.

Art. 22. The South Ossetian Autonomous Region consists of the districts of: Java, Znauri, Leningori, Staliniri; and the city of Staliniri which does not form part of a district.

642 Art. 23. The laws of the Georgian SSR are binding within the whole territory of the Georgian SSR.

In the event of divergence between the laws of the Abkhazian Autonomous SSR and the Adjar Autonomous SSR and the laws of the Georgian SSR, the law of the Georgian SSR prevails.

Art. 24. The Abkhazian Autonomous SSR and the Adjar Autonomous SSR have their Constitutions which take into account the particular conditions of these republics and are drawn up in full conformity with the Constitution of the Georgian SSR and of the USSR.

The South Ossetian Autonomous Region has a "Statute of the Autonomous Region" which is confirmed by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power in the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

644 Art. 25. The highest organ of state power in the Georgian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Georgian SSR in accordance with articles 13 and 14 of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR, in so far as they do not, by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Georgian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR, and the Ministries of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 27. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Georgian SSR.

[666] Art. 28. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is elected by the citizens of the Republic voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 15,000 of the population.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is elected for a term of four years.

[643] Art. 30. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR twice a year.

Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

646 Art. 31. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and two Vice-Chairmen.

The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

Art. 32. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR by a simple majority vote.

643 646 Art. 33. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR are published over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 34. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR consisting of the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, two Vice-Presidents representing the Autonomous Republics, a Secretary of the Presidium and 13 members of the Presidium.

Art. 35. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR for all its activities.

643 Art. 36. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR;

b) Issues decrees;

c) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Georgian SSR in operation;

d) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

[645] e) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR and of the Councils of Ministers of the Autonomous Republics, and likewise decisions and orders of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region if they do not conform to law;

f) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Georgian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR;

g) Confers the rights of citizenship of the Georgian SSR;

h) Awards honourary testimonials and confers titles of honour of the Georgian SSR;

i) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Georgian SSR;

j) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Georgian SSR to foreign states;

k) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

646 Art. 37. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

646 On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 39. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

[643] Art. 40. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

[644] Art. 41. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 42. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR not later than three months after the elections.

[645] Art. 43. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR appoints the Government of the Georgian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

645 Art. 44. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Georgian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 46. The Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Georgian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and verifies their execution.

[Constitution as of July 1, 1947]

652 646 Art. 113. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR elects a Budget Commission which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Georgian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 114. Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR the state budget of the Georgian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 115. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Georgian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR and published for general information.

652 631 Art. 116. The budget of the Abkhazian and Adjar Autonomous Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region and the local budgets of district, city, settlement and village Soviets of Working People's Deputies include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Georgian SSR.

Chapter X. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 117. In the Georgian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR, the Supreme Courts of the Abkhazian and Adjar Autonomous Republics, the Court of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.

[643] Art. 118. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 119. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Georgian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Georgian SSR, the Abkhazian and Adjar Autonomous Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

[646] Art. 120. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 121. The Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics are elected by the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics for a term of five years.

Art. 122. The Court of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region is elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region for a term of five years.

Art. 123. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the district on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 563 Art. 124. Judicial proceedings in the Georgian SSR are conducted in the Georgian language, or in the languages of the Autonomous Republics or of the Autonomous Region, persons not knowing